

# Don't Let the Sun Go Down

**M**any years ago, in the days before cellular phones, **John T. Crowder** called me from a pay phone located in a hallway outside the Alabama Supreme Court. He wanted to return my recent phone call before he began an oral argument to the court. I was so impressed that he had made the effort to return my phone call while he was still out of town, engaged in a case before the supreme court, that I still remember his call.

Many years later, during an Alabama State Bar annual meeting, Jay Foonberg advised lawyers to try to adhere to the following standard in our law practice: "Don't let the sun go down on an unreturned phone call."

As a practical matter, adherence to this standard seems impossible for many of us in our law practice, but keeping

the standard in mind has encouraged me to be more conscientious and disciplined about returning telephone calls.

Returning phone calls promptly reflects concern for others and good time management. Generally, I believe that the best lawyers are those who will return a phone call themselves or through their staff before the "sun goes down" whenever possible.

—*Samuel N. Crosby, Daphne*

